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GOODFELLOW**

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7 June 1945

SUBJECT: Recommendation for the Award of the Legion of Merit to Capt. Brooks Dolan, O-901154, AUS

TO: The Adjutant General
War Department
Washington, D. C.

THRU: The Director, OSS

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1. It is recommended that the Legion of Merit be awarded to Capt. Brooks Dolan, [redacted], AUS, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the Government of the United States.

2. Capt. Dolan was a member of a two-man mission which was directed to proceed from Delhi, India, through the tortuous mountain areas of Tibet by way of Lhasa, Capitol of Tibet, and on through barren and uncharted country into China.

3. The primary purpose of the mission was exploration and survey of the country traversed in an effort to determine the feasibility of establishing alternate routes of supply to the Burma Road, which had been rendered practically useless by Japanese aggression. Secondary purposes were the location of areas suitable for construction of airports between India and China from which Allied Air Forces might effectively operate against the enemy; the determination of the existing tenor of public opinion prevailing throughout the areas visited with a view toward effectively influencing that opinion in favor of the United Nations; the collection of political, economic and scientific data, knowledge of which had previously been of an extremely scanty nature; the delivery of messages and tokens of esteem and good will from the President of the United States to the governing power of Tibet, the Dalai Llama and his aides and advisors; the detection of any enemy activity which may have possibly existed in the area and the collection and transmittal of such intelligence as might possibly be collected and safely relayed.

4. Capt. Dolan and Lt. Col. Tolstoy, the leader of the mission, left Washington under orders of the Commander-in-Chief to report to the Commanding General, CBI. They departed on 28 July 1942. They arrived in Delhi, India, on 8 August 1942. At Delhi they devoted themselves to the task of preparing for the arduous journey ahead.

5. After all arrangements had been completed, the mission set out for the border of Tibet. They arrived at Sikkim in October and

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from there departed for Lhasa on 22 October 1942. This journey was especially unique because it represented the first time in history that American Army officers had undertaken this route to Lhasa. In the course of the journey, the mission also had the distinction of representing the first venture of white men to travel through a great part of the area. Notations of varied interests were assiduously kept, including observations on local customs, habits, conditions and plans and ideals of life. Details of the route were accurately recorded and the chronicle of the progression of the itinerary represented a full and definite survey of flora, fauna, terrain, climate, weather, geographical conditions, altitudes, trails, mapping of portions of unexplored territory, grades and other related items which are vital to engineering consideration in the contemplation of practical road building. This particular phase of the journey was accomplished in spite of constantly recurring hardships and obstacles. The task of overcoming the natural hazards of the strange, rugged and forbidding territory alone was a challenge to the stout hearts of the officers, a challenge they met superbly and which they accepted and persevered. During this journey, Capt. Dolan fell ill with pneumonia. After improvised, but effective treatment by his companion, he disdained the advantages of a convalescent period, and insisted on continuing the journey. The mode of travel during this phase of the journey was the simple and tedious method of pack-train, using both horses and yak and, of course, traveling many weary miles on foot.

6. The mission reached Lhasa on 12 December 1942 and remained there until 19 March 1943. The ingenius employment of diplomacy, tact and adaptability by Lt. Colonel Tolstoy and Capt. Dolan were responsible for an amazing and sincere reception and acceptance of their presence there and a genuine and heartfelt exhibition of hospitality, entertainment and practical cooperation with the officers in the pursuit of the purposes of their mission. Full details of the stay in Lhasa are available should they be deemed desirable for presentation, but for the purposes of this recommendation, suffice it to say that the Capitol of Tibet was thoroughly visited and examined. All phases of Tibetan religion, life, culture and political and economic practices and ideals were studied, analysed and recorded. This record is included in a very detailed report, a voluminous chronological set of exceptionally unusual photographs, including what is believed to be the only pictures in existence in the outside world of the little known ruler of Tibet, the Dalai Llama, and a beautifully perfected motion picture film in pure natural color. The motion picture film has been adjudged as a pictorial masterpiece by experts of the motion picture industry.

7. While in Lhasa, the two officers became the first representatives of the President of the United States to secure an audience with the Dalai Llama and confer in detail with the various heads of his Government. A special letter to the Dalai Llama was ceremoniously delivered as were a collection of rare and intriguing presents from the President. These presents were enthusiastically received and served to further cement the friendship Capt. Dolan helped to establish between Tibet and the United States.

8. Capt. Dolan, a member of the American mission, was accorded the distinct honor of being one of the first two persons, other than a native of Tibet, officially granted permission to travel a particular route through that portion of Tibet which lies between Lhasa and China. This was the next leg in the mission's journey and they set out, with an honorary escort which accompanied the mission for a short distance, toward Lanchow, China, the next major objective in their travels. They departed on 19 March 1943.

9. The journey between Lhasa and Lanchow was the most difficult and dangerous span of the entire progress of the mission. They traveled by pack-train, foot, horse and yak, over dangerous and precipitous routes, following nomad trails or blazing new ones, through strange and wild country. They encountered wild Himalayan storms, driving rain, snow and sleet and bitter sub-zero weather. They were in constant danger of attack from preying native bandits and had to be ever on the alert for their own personal safety, the welfare of their few attendants and the safety of their equipment and stores. They made their own camp at night or occasionally stopped at impromptu nomad tent camps, which required the utmost in tact and diplomacy in order to procure and assure their safety. This trip embraced terrain of almost fabulous altitudes for sustained travel. For six months they were never below 12,000 feet above sea level and repeatedly were required to ascend 15,000 feet or more. Physical exertion at such altitudes requires the utmost in determination and stamina. Their supplies consisted of the barest necessities practical and included sugar, rice, dried fruit, flour, yak butter and milk, barley, dried cabbage and tomatoes. They had practically no vegetables and were required to seek what additional viands they could find from the barren land over which they traveled.

10. During the progress of this journey, Capt. Dolan actively participated in the conduction of the work of the mission. He made and assisted in the technical surveys of the weather, prevailing winds, precipitation, temperatures, etc. The officers also took altitudes, charted and mapped virgin areas; surveyed and made extensive panoramic photographs of possible air fields; recorded accurately and in detail the features of the terrain; and made other pertinent recorded observations relative to exploration of unknown territory and its possible use for military transport and air base facilities.

11. The mission, surviving the arduous ordeal, arrived in Lanchow, Kansi Province, China on 4 July 1943. Here their land travel ended and they consolidated their reports and disposed of or packed their equipment. From Lanchow, they proceeded by air and reported to General Stilwell, the Theater Commander later in July. The officers subsequently returned to the United States in December 1943.

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12. It should be remembered that at the time this mission was planned, the Japanese aggressor had made his deepest and most threatening penetration south from the home islands. Allied defense and counter measures had not been materially effective and the overall plan for a counter offense leading up to the actual full scale offense and attack

on the Empire's heart had not been sufficiently developed and coordinated to promise any positive immediate relief to Allied Pacific areas or the Asiatic mainland. Even while the mission was in Chungking, the Japanese were bombing the area frequently.

13. The mission was a complete success. Its purpose was splendidly accomplished and the final report remains a valuable document for future consideration as well as a vivid testament to the determination, courage, valor and ingenuity of the two officers who were selected to undertake its fulfillment. It was determined that the proposed routes, though not overly practical in normal times, were nevertheless entirely feasible from a military point of view, during adverse times or periods of stress. Likewise, the sites located for the proposed air fields could have been developed had need for their use been imperative. The opening of the Lido Road and the improvement of Allied air activity from other bases, precluded the active and material use of the information obtained and submitted by the mission. The information was obtained, however, and its value is none the less vital even though it happily evolved that its use in active operations became unnecessary.

14. Capt. Dolan, throughout the entire mission, participated in all of the activities and displayed outstanding qualities of physical, mental and moral merit. He was especially helpful and successful because of his scientific and technical knowledge which he applied aptly and worked on tirelessly. He was directly responsible for the precision, clarity and accuracy of the scientific findings and subsequent reports. He, at all times, was courageous and resourceful, accepting the challenging circumstances frequently encountered fearlessly and pursuing his tasks without deviation until they were successfully completed. The completion of the mission in such a brilliant manner is a personal tribute to this officer and an inspiration to all who have knowledge of his accomplishments.

15. This recommendation is based on my personal knowledge and on the official records of the Office of Strategic Services.

16. The entire service of Capt. Dolan to the Government of the United States has been honorable.

M. PRESTON GOODFELLOW
Colonel, OSC

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For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the Government of the United States; Captain Brooke Dolan, AUS was a member of a special two-man secret mission, at the direction of the Commander-in-Chief, from Delhi, India through Tibet to China. Charged with the responsibility of determining the feasibility of the construction of a new road of supply into China and the location of possible air field sites throughout the area, the mission further made an intensive scientific study of the country traversed, recording their findings on geography, geology, weather conditions and related subjects. They further studied the political, social and economic aspects of the area and accurately reported them along with valuable information regarding natural resources, public opinion, existence or non-existence of enemy activity and vivid narrative and pictorial descriptions of all phases of life, conditions, religion, customs and characteristics of the people and terrain, much of which had never been either seen or reported by a member of the white race. These aims and activities were brilliantly accomplished and the records of the achievement remain as a vital portion of the National Archives. Throughout the accomplishment of the mission, Capt. Dolan met and overcame tremendous difficulties of travel, weather, terrain, excessively high altitudes and danger from native populations whose attitude toward himself and the mission was not previously known. He also acted as a personal emissary of the President to the Dalai Llama, the High Priest and governing authority of Tibet, and presented him with special gifts in his palace in Lhasa, the Capitol of Tibet. Capt. Dolan's diplomacy, and tact, in this respect were outstanding. He succeeded in winning good will and hence was granted favors and given permission to proceed to and through places never before seen or traversed by white men. Throughout the duration of the mission, 22 October 1942 to 4 July 1943, Capt. Dolan displayed outstanding qualities of physical, mental and moral superiority. His wisdom, innate knowledge, courage and resourcefulness were displayed in the highest degree.

[illegible]

Millard P. Goodfellow

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7 June 194[illegible]

SUBJECT: Recommendation for the Award of the Legion of Merit to Lt. Colonel Ilia Andre Tolstoy, O-[redacted], AUS

TO : The Adjutant General
War Department
Washington, D. C.

THRU : The Director, OSS

1. It is recommended that the Legion of Merit be awarded to Lt. Colonel Ilia Andre Tolstoy, [redacted] AUS, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the Government of the United States.

2. Lt. Colonel Tolstoy was in charge of a two-man mission which was organized to proceed from Delhi, India, through the unknown [illegible] areas of Tibet by way of Lhasa, capital of Tibet, and on through little known and uncharted country into China. At the outset, this officer held the military grade of Captain and was subsequently promoted to Major. He received promotion to his present grade shortly after the successful conclusion of his mission.

3. The primary purpose of the mission was exploration and survey of the country traversed in an effort to determine the feasibility of establishing alternate routes of supply to the Burma Road, which had been rendered practically useless by Japanese aggression. Secondary missions were the location of areas suitable for construction of airfields between India and China from which Allied Air Forces might effectively operate against the enemy; the determination of the existing state of Tibetan opinion prevailing throughout the areas visited with a view toward effectively influencing that opinion in favor of the United Nations; the collection of political, economic and geographical data, knowledge of which had previously been of an extremely meager nature; the delivery of messages and tokens of esteem and good will from the President of the United States to the governing power of Tibet, the Dalai Lama and his aides and advisors; the detection of any enemy activity which may have possibly existed in the area and the collection and transmission of such intelligence as might possibly be uncovered and safely relayed.

4. Lt. Colonel Tolstoy left Washington under orders of the Commanding General [illegible] to report to the Commanding General, CBI. He

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7 June 1945

SUBJECT: Recommendation for the Award of the Legion of Merit to Lt. Colonel Ilia Andre Tolstoy, O-903084, AUS

TO : The Adjutant General
War Department
Washington, D. C.

THRU : The Director, OSS

1. It is recommended that the Legion of Merit be awarded to Lt. Colonel Ilia Andre Tolstoy, [redacted] AUS, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the Government of the United States.

2. Lt. Colonel Tolstoy was in charge of a two-man mission which was directed to proceed from Delhi, India, through the tortuous mountain areas of Tibet by way of Lhasa, capitol of Tibet, and on through barren and uncharted country into China. At the outset, this officer held the military grade of Captain and was subsequently promoted to Major. He received promotion to his present grade shortly after the successful conclusion of his mission.

3. The primary purpose of the mission was exploration and survey of the country traversed in an effort to determine the feasibility of establishing alternate routes of supply to the Burma Road, which had been rendered practically useless by Japanese aggression. Secondary purposes were the location of areas suitable for construction of airports between India and China from which Allied Air Forces might effectively operate against the enemy; the determination of the existing tenor of public opinion prevailing throughout the areas visited with a view toward effectively influencing that opinion in favor of the United Nations; the collection of political, economic and scientific data, knowledge of which had previously been of an extremely scanty nature; the delivery of messages and tokens of esteem and good will from the President of the United States to the governing power of Tibet, the Dalai Llama and his aides and advisors; the detection of any enemy activity which may have possibly existed in the area and the collection and transmittal of such intelligence as might possibly be collected and safely relayed.

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4. Lt. Colonel Tolstoy left Washington under orders of the Commander-in-Chief to report to the Commanding General, CBI. He

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departed on 28 July 1942. He arrived in Delhi, India on 8 August 1942. At Delhi he devoted himself to the task of preparing for the arduous journey ahead.

5. After all arrangements had been completed, the mission set out for the border of Tibet. They arrived at Sikkim in October and from there departed for Lhasa on 22 October 1942. This journey was especially unique because it represented the first time in history that American Army officers had undertaken this route to Lhasa. In the course of the journey, the mission also had the distinction of representing the first venture of white men to travel through a great part of the area. Notations of varied interests were assiduously kept, including observations on local customs, habits, conditions and plans and ideals of life. Details of the route were accurately recorded and the chronicle of the progression of the itinerary represented a full and definite survey of flora, fauna, terrain, climate, weather, geographical conditions, altitudes, trails, mapping of portions of unexplored territory, grades and other related items which are vital to engineering consideration in the contemplation of practical road building. This particular phase of the journey was accomplished in spite of constantly recurring hardships and obstacles. The task of overcoming the natural hazards of the strange, rugged and forbidding territory alone was a challenge to the stout hearts of the officers, a challenge they met superbly and which they accepted and persevered. In one instance, the other member of the mission fell ill with pneumonia. Lt. Colonel Tolstoy, using the scanty assortment of drugs and medicants at hand, effectively administered to his ailing companion and succeeded in restoring him to full healthful vigor in a remarkably short time. The mode of travel during this phase of the journey was the simple and tedious method of pack-train, using both horses and yak and, of course, traveling many weary miles on foot.

6. The mission reached Lhasa on 12 December 1942 and remained there until 19 March 1943. The ingenius employment of diplomacy, tact and adaptability by Lt. Colonel Tolstoy and his associate were responsible for an amazing and sincere reception and acceptance of their presence there and a genuine and heartfelt exhibition of hospitality, entertainment and practical cooperation with the officers in the pursuit of the purposes of their mission. Full details of the stay in Lhasa are available should they be deemed desirable for presentation, but for the purposes of this recommendation, suffice it to say that the Capitol of Tibet was thoroughly visited and examined. All phases of Tibetan religion, life, culture and political and economic practices and ideals were studied, analyzed and recorded. This record is included in a very detailed report, a voluminous chronoligical set of exceptionally unusual photographs, including what is believed to be the only pictures in existence in the outside world of the little known ruler of Tibet, the Dalai Llama, and a beautifully perfected motion picture film in pure natural color. The motion picture film has been adjudged as a pictorial masterpiece by experts of the motion picture industry.

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7. While in Lhasa, Lt. Colonel Tolstoy became the first representative of the President of the United States to secure an audience with the Dalai Llama and confer in detail with the various heads of his Government. A special letter to the Dalai Llama was ceremoniously delivered as were a collection of rare and intriguing presents from the President. These presents were enthusiastically received and served to further cement the friendship Lt. Colonel Tolstoy had established between Tibet and the United States.

8. Lt. Colonel Tolstoy, as head of the American mission, was accorded the distinct honor of being the first person, other than a native of Tibet, officially granted permission to travel a particular route through that portion of Tibet which lies between Lhasa and China. This was the next leg in the mission's journey and they set out, with an honorary escort which accompanied the mission for a short distance, toward Lanchow, China, the next major objective in their travels. They departed on 19 March 1943.

9. The journey between Lhasa and Lanchow was the most difficult and dangerous span of the entire progress of the mission. They traveled by pack-train, foot, horse and yak, over dangerous and precipitous routes, following nomad trails or blazing new ones, through strange and wild country. They encountered wild Himalayan storms, driving rain, snow and sleet and bitter sub-zero weather. They were in constant danger of attack from preying native bandits and had to be ever on the alert for their own personal safety, the welfare of their few attendents and the safety of their equipment and stores. They made their own camp at night or occasionally stopped at impromptu nomad tent camps, which required the utmost in tact and diplomacy in order to procure and assure their safety. This trip embraced terrain of almost fabulous altitudes for sustained travel. For six months they were never below 12,000 feet above sea level and repeatedly were required to ascend 15,000 feet or more. Physical exertion at such altitudes requires the utmost in determination and stamina. Their supplies consisted of the barest necessities practical and included sugar, rice, dried fruit, flour, yak butter and milk, barley, dried cabbage and tomatoes. They had practically no vegetables and were required to seek what additional viands they could find from the barren land over which they traveled.

10. During the progress of this journey, Lt. Colonel Tolstoy again directed the conduction of the work of the mission. He supervised the technical surveys of the weather, prevailing winds, precipitation, temperatures, etc., took altitudes, charted and mapped virgin areas; surveyed and made extensive panoramic photographs of possible air fields; recorded accurately and in detail the features of the terrain; and made other pertinent recorded observations relative to exploration of unknown territory and its possible use for military transport and air base facilities.

11. The mission, surviving the arduous ordeal, arrived in Lanchow, Kansi Province, China on 4 July 1943. Here their land travel ended and they consolidated their reports and disposed of or packed their equipment. From Lanchow, Lt. Colonel Tolstoy proceeded by air and reported to General Stilwell, the Theater Commander later in July. The officers subsequently returned to the United States in December 1943.

12. It should be remembered that at the time this mission was planned, the Japanese aggressor had made his deepest and most threatening penetration south from the home islands. Allied defense and counter measures had not been materially effective and the overall plan for a counter offense leading up to the actual full scale offense and attack on the Empire's heart had not been sufficiently developed and coordinated to promise any positive immediate relief to Allied Pacific areas or the Asiatic mainland. Even while the mission was in Chungking, the Japanese were bombing the area frequently.

13. The mission was a complete success. Its purpose was splendidly accomplished and the final report remains a valuable document for future consideration as well as a vivid testament to the determination, courage, valor and ingenuity of the two officers who were selected to undertake its fulfillment. It was determined that the proposed routes, though not overly practical in normal times, were nevertheless, entirely feasible, from a military point of view, during adverse times or periods of stress. Likewise, the sites located for the proposed air fields could have been developed had need for their use been imperative. The opening of the Lido Road and the improvement of Allied air activity from other bases, precluded the active and material use of the information obtained and submitted by the mission. The information was obtained, however, and its value is none the less vital even though it happily evolved that its use in active operations became unnecessary.

14. Lt. Colonel Tolstoy, in leading the mission, and personally participating in all of its activities, both as supervisor and executer, displayed outstanding qualities of physical, mental and moral superiority. His wisdom, innate knowledge, courage and resourcefulness were displayed in the highest degree. The successful completion of the mission is a personal tribute to this officer and an inspiration to all who have knowledge of his accomplishments.

15. This recommendation is based on my personal knowledge and on the official records of the Office of Strategic Services.

16. The entire service of Lt. Colonel Tolstoy to the Government of the United States has been honorable.

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CONFIDENTIAL M. PRESTON GOODFELLOW

Millard P. Goodfellow

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